

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating excess weight in a
5 mammal by continuous administration of 1 mg protein/kg
body weight/day or less of an OB protein selected from
the group consisting of:

(a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein
(SEQ. ID. No. 2);

10 (b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein
(SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the
methionyl residue at position -1;

15 (d) the protein of (a), (b) or (c) lacking a
glutamine at position 28; and

(e) a chemically modified derivative of (a),
(b), (c) or (d).

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the
20 chemically modified derivative is a pegylated
derivative.

3. A method of claim 2 wherein the pegylated
derivative is N-terminally pegylated.

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4. A method of claim 1 wherein said
continuous administration is accomplished by osmotic
pump.

30 5. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 1.

6. A vector containing a DNA sequence
according to claim 5.

35 7. A vector of claim 6 wherein said vector
is pCFM1656.

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Pub 43 8. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 3.

9. A vector containing a DNA sequence
5 according to claim 8.

10. A vector according to claim 9 wherein
said vector is pCFM1656.

10 11. A method of refolding partially purified
OB protein in a solution obtained from inclusion
bodies, said partially purified OB protein selected
from the group consisting of:

Pub 43 (a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein
15 (SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein
(SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the
methionyl residue at position -1;

20 wherein said refolding is accomplished using
N-lauroyl sarcosine.

12. A method of claim 11 wherein said
sarcosine is used at a concentration of 0.5% - 2.0%
25 weight per volume of solution.

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